

UPI

29 JAN. 1981

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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- REP. PAUL MCCLOSKEY, R-CALIF., TODAY DENIED CHARGES BY LYNDON LAROUCHE, A MINOR CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT LAST YEAR WHO HAS HAD TIES WITH THE U.S. LABOR PARTY, THAT ONE OF HIS STAFFERS WAS A SOVIET SPY.

"THESE CHARGES ARE GROUNDLESS," MCCLOSKEY TOLD A HASTILY CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF A NOV. 28, 1980 ARTICLE IN WHICH LAROUCHE CALLED CHARLES FAGER "A LONG STANDING CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF PHILIP AGEE'S IMMEDIATE PATRONS, AND CURRENTLY PLACED WITH REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MCCLOSKEY, (R-CAL.)."

IN REMARKS MADE LATER ON THE HOUSE FLOOR MCCLOSKEY SAID LAROUCHE ACCUSED FAGER OF BEING "A SOVIET KGB-LINKED MOLE CONNECTED WITH SOVIET KGB GENERAL KIM PHILBY."

FAGER, ASSIGNED BY MCCLOSKEY TO THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE STAFF, TOLD REPORTERS AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE, "THE CHARGES ARE FALSE COMPLETELY."

FAGER EXPRESSED BELIEF LAROUCHE WAS "TRYING TO GET VENGEANCE" FOR AN ARTICLE FAGER WROTE IN 1973 FOR THE NOW DEFUNCT CAMBRIDGE, MASS., PHOENIX ABOUT LAROUCHE'S OPERATION MOP-UP CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE AGAINST OTHER LEFT WING GROUPS. HIS ARTICLES ALSO REVEALED LAROUCHE RAN UNDER THE ALIAS LYN MARCUS AS THE U.S. LABOR PARTY'S 1972 CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT.

FBI DIRECTOR WILLIAM WEBSTER SAID IN A JAN. 15 LETTER WHICH MCCLOSKEY DISTRIBUTED THAT FBI RECORDS "HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND NOTHING WAS LOCATED WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATIONS BY MR. LAROUCHE."

UPI 01-29-81 07:27 PES